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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1938

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MORECAMBE:

"Visitor" Printing Works, Victoria Street.

1939



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## BOROUGH OF MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM.

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### HEALTH AND HOUSING (including PUBLIC CLEANSING) COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.

Chairman: Councillor W. TOWNSLEY, C.C.

Vice-Chairman: Alderman J. EDMONDSON.

Alderman J. SNOWDEN, J.P.

„ A. WATSON, J.P.

Councillor W. BAXTER.

„ F. C. FAHY, J.P.

„ C. HOWES, J.P.

„ M. J. PLATTEN.

„ J. ROBINSON.

---

### STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Medical Officer  
to the Port Health Authority:

W. F. LYLE, B.Sc., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Inspector under Diseases of Animals,  
Rats and Mice and Shops Acts:

H. MORGANS (a, b, c, d, e, f, g).

Additional Sanitary Inspectors and Inspectors under the Shops Act:

W. S. MAKIN (a, b, c, f). T. H. ASHBROOK (a, c, f).

A. L. BAXTER (c).

Veterinary Inspector and Meat Inspector (part-time):

G. C. WEBSTER, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

Clerical Staff: W. A. TURNER, E. AUSTIN.

a—Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of R.S.I. or Joint Board.

b—Meat Inspector's Certificate, School of Hygiene, Liverpool University.

c—Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, School of Hygiene, Liverpool  
University.

d—Smoke Inspector's Certificate, Liverpool University.

e—Associate Royal Sanitary Institute.

f—Member Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

g—Member Institute of Public Cleansing.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## ON THE

# Health of Morecambe and Heysham

## AND OF THE PORT OF HEYSHAM

---

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of  
Morecambe and Heysham.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1938.

In June, 1938, I succeeded Dr. J. W. Watterson in the occupation of a post that he had held with distinction for many years.

I should like to record my appreciation of the kindness with which Dr. Watterson greeted me as his successor. When I have needed advice he has been generous; and with his knowledge of the Borough and its problems he has assisted me readily over the difficulties of beginning work in a strange place and amongst strangers. The record of his services to Morecambe and Heysham in its progress to its present position as one of the foremost health resorts of the kingdom is contained in the annual reports of past years: to recount those services now is <sup>not</sup> necessary; they are remembered with gratitude in the Borough.

I would express my thanks to the members of the Council, to my fellow officials and to the staff of the Public Health Department for support and assistance most willingly given. In particular, I am in Mr. Morgan's debt for unfailing co-operation, both in the day-to-day work of the department and in the compilation of this report: failing the help that he has given me, my work would have been very much more difficult.

The year 1938 was notable for the irruption into normal public health work of Air Raid Precautions. The dislocation of routine was considerable, and unavoidable. I wish to thank those doctors who gave their service as lecturers, and the members of the Saint John Ambulance Brigade, whose enthusiastic assistance in the work of training volunteers was of the utmost value.

The form of this Report is that required by Circular 1728 of the Ministry of Health.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. F. LYLE,

Medical Officer of Health.



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

Area (not including foreshore) in acres ... ..	3,665
Population at mid-year, 1938 (Registrar-General's estimate)	30,940
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books ... ..	10,460
Rateable Value ... ..	£273,543
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£1,076

When Morecambe and Heysham amalgamated in 1928 the estimated population was 22,170. In the year of this Report, ten years later, the estimate gives a population increase of 8,320.

In the last Census Year, 1931, the population of the Borough was 24,542. The estimated population in each of the years since 1931 has been as follows:—

1932 ... ..	24,820.
1933 ... ..	26,040.
1934 ... ..	27,130.
1935 ... ..	27,980.
1936 ... ..	28,770.
1937 ... ..	29,840.
1938 ... ..	30,490.

Estimated figures of population are arrived at by adjusting the last census figures according to gain and loss by births, deaths and migration. The figures of births and deaths are obtainable almost exactly from registration records, but the figures for migration have to be calculated from less reliable data. For this reason an estimated population figure has not the accuracy of a census figure, and year by year improvement shown above is only an approximation to the truth as close as can be obtained by these methods. Nevertheless, the figures do present evidence of a rapid growth of the Borough as a residential area, concomitant with its increasing fame as a health and holiday resort.

The number of inhabited houses, according to the rate books, has increased from 9,517 at the end of 1937 to 10,460. In the Census Year, 1931, the number was 5,749.

### Chief Industries and Unemployment.

The staple occupation in the Borough is that of catering for visitors, and the numbers of the unemployed shew, therefore, wide seasonal variations.

Average numbers unemployed:—

During the "off season" (late Autumn, Winter and early Spring): 1,470 (1,050 men, 420 women).

During the season: 520 (470 men, 50 women).

The lowest figure recorded during the year was 457, during the week ending August 15th.

The highest figure recorded during the year was 1,686, during the week ending December 19th. This figure was obtained at a time when almost all out-door work was brought to a standstill by inclement weather.



For these figures I am indebted to the Manager of the Ministry of Labour Employment Exchange.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Live Births—Legitimate ... ..	284	143	141
Illegitimate ... ..	12	6	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ... ..	296	149	147
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 9.7.

Stillbirths ... .. 20 ... 15 ... 5

Rate for 1,000 total (live and still) births, 63.

Deaths ... .. 526 ... 249 ... 277

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 17.2.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 total (live & still) Births.
Puerperal sepsis ... ..	None.	Nil.
Other puerperal causes ... ..	1	3.16
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ... ..	1	3.16

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... .. 70

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... .. 73

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live  
births ... .. Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... .. 73

„ „ Measles (all ages) ... .. Nil

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... .. Nil

„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ... .. Nil

Statistics of Live Births in Morecambe and Heysham during the five years 1934-1938:—

	Births. Total Live	Birth-rate per 1,000 population. estimated resident
1934 ... ..	282	10.3
1935 ... ..	267	9.5
1936 ... ..	289	10.0
1937 ... ..	302	10.1
1938 ... ..	296	9.7

The Live Birth-rate (Provisional) for England and Wales in 1938 was 15.1 per 1,000 population.

The birth-rate of the Borough has for many years been well below that of the country generally: for this the age distribution of the population is largely responsible.

Per 1,000 of estimated population.					Maternal mortality		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.
Live birth-rate.	Crude death rate.	Death rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system.	Death rate from Cancer.	Per 1,000 live births.	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.		
Population—							
Estimate, mid-1938 ... 30,490							
Mean of 5 years, 1933-1937 ...	9.8	16.8	0.44	2.11	4.81	4.56	63
Year—							
1937 ...	10.1	17.3	0.40	2.24	9.93	9.37	66
1938 ...	9.7	*17.2	0.32	2.39	3.37	3.16	70
Increase or decrease in 1938 on 5 years average, 1933-1937 ...	—0.1	+0.4	—0.12	+0.28	—1.44	—1.40	+7
Previous year ...	—0.4	—0.1	—0.08	+0.15	—6.56	—6.21	+4

\*1938 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 0.75) =12.9 per 1,000.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	—	—
2 Measles ... ..	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
4 Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
5 Diphtheria ... ..	—	1
6 Influenza ... ..	5	2
7 Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	1	—
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	1	1
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	7	3
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	1	2
11 Syphilis ... ..	—	—
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ... ..	—	3
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	31	42
14 Diabetes ... ..	6	7
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ... ..	14	15
16 Heart Diseases ... ..	90	97
17 Aneurysm ... ..	—	—
18 Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	21	35
19 Bronchitis ... ..	5	2
20 Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	7	8
21 Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	5	2
22 Peptic Ulcer ... ..	2	2
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	—	—
24 Appendicitis ... ..	2	2
25 Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	1	—
26 Other Diseases of the Liver, etc. ... ..	—	5
27 Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	5	6
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	12	9
29 Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	—
30 Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	—	1
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth Malformations, etc. ... ..	8	9
32 Senility ... ..	3	8
33 Suicide ... ..	2	2
34 Other Violence ... ..	3	3
35 Other defined causes ... ..	17	9
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	—	1
All Causes ... ..	249	277



## CAUSES OF DEATH—(Continued).

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above) :—		
Small Pox ... ..	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
Polio-encephalitis ... ..	—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year:—		
Total ... ..	8	13
Legitimate ... ..	8	13
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—
Still Births:—		
Total ... ..	15	5
Legitimate ... ..	14	5
Illegitimate ... ..	1	

Amongst infectious diseases there were no deaths from Measles, Scarlet Fever or Whooping Cough, and one only from Diphtheria. Encephalitis Lethargica accounted for one death, Cerebro-Spinal Fever for 2, and Influenza for 7.

Of the 526 deaths belonging to the Borough 79 occurred in the Queen Victoria Hospital.

The number of deaths exceeded the number of live births by 230.

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE YEARS INDICATED

		1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
Estimated Population ... ..		30490	29840	28770	27980	27130
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
2	Measles ... ..	...	...	1	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping Cough ... ..	...	2	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria ... ..	1	1	...	1	...
6	Influenza ... ..	7	21	11	18	9
7	Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	1	2	...	1	...
8	Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	2	...	...	...	1
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	10	12	13	14	15
10	Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	3	1	3	4	2
11	Syphilis ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis ... ..	3	...	1	3	3
13	Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	73	67	71	59	62
14	Diabetes ... ..	13	16	10	11	16
15	Cerebral hemorrhage, etc. ... ..	29	30	29	30	24
16	Heart Diseases ... ..	187	180	162	145	131
17	Aneurysm ... ..	...	...	...	...	2
18	Other circulatory diseases ... ..	56	49	48	47	42
19	Bronchitis ... ..	7	12	24	10	13
20	Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	15	11	18	21	10
21	Other respiratory diseases ... ..	7	4	1	4	1
22	Peptic ulcer ... ..	7	5	5	4	9
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	1	3	2	1
24	Appendicitis ... ..	4	2	1	2	2
25	Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	1	...	...	1	1
26	Other disease of the liver, etc. ... ..	5	1	5	7	1
27	Other digestive diseases ... ..	11	6	10	9	12
28	Acute and chronic nephritis ... ..	21	14	17	15	14
29	Puerperal sepsis ... ..	...	2	1	...	...
30	Other puerperal causes ... ..	1	1	2	1	...
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc. ... ..	17	14	8	10	13
32	Senility ... ..	11	9	12	12	9
33	Suicide ... ..	4	7	8	4	3
34	Other violence ... ..	6	12	10	7	13
35	Other defined diseases ... ..	26	32	31	39	30
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	1	2	3	...	1
All Causes ... ..		526	517	508	481	441
Deaths of Infants under 1 year. Total ... ..		21	20	13	18	16
Legitimate ... ..		21	20	12	17	15
Illegitimate ... ..		...	...	1	1	1
Still births	Total ... ..	20	18	17	7	17
	Legitimate ... ..	19	14	17	7	17
	Illegitimate ... ..	1	4	...	...	...

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The names, qualifications and offices of the Authority's Public Health Officers are given at the beginning of this report.

### (a) Laboratory Facilities:

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are, for the most part, carried out by the County Laboratory in Preston, the Pathology Department of the Preston Royal Infirmary and the Joint Isolation Hospital at Lancaster.

### (b) Ambulance Facilities:

The ambulance facilities of the district were improved by the provision of a new motor-ambulance for non-infectious and accident cases, this new ambulance being housed in the Fire Station and under the control of the Watch Committee.

As before, the St. John Ambulance Association provide an efficient motor-ambulance, in the use of which they co-operate with Local Authority.

These ambulances together now provide an adequate service for accident and non-infectious cases in the Borough, and this is supplemented by the ambulance of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board for cases of infectious disease.

### (c) Nursing in the Home:

This work is done by nurses of the District Nursing Association, to which the Local Authority makes a contribution of £25 per annum.

### (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics:

The provision of Clinic services remains as before, the Local Authority conducting a Minor Ailments Clinic for School Children, and the County Authority Clinics for Ante-natal and Maternity and Child Welfare work. This is not the most satisfactory arrangement for an area of this size: even though it will mean increased expenditure, the question of taking over their own Ante-natal and Child Welfare work will have to be considered soon by the Local Authority.

The services for Tuberculosis and for Venereal Diseases are conducted by the County Authority. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for this district is at 8, Middle Street, Lancaster. The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at Preston Royal Infirmary, Deepdale Road, Preston, and the times of attendance there are:—

Males: Wednesdays, 4-30—7-30 p.m. Fridays, 4-30—7-0 p.m.

Females: Tuesdays, 4-30—7-0 p.m. Thursdays, 4-30—6-30 p.m.



**(e) Public and Voluntary Hospitals:**

The hospital services for this borough are provided by the Queen Victoria (Voluntary) Hospital, the Joint Isolation Hospital at Lancaster, and the Smallpox Hospital at Littlefell. The last is available by arrangement with the Corporation of Lancaster.

In September the scope of the Queen Victoria Hospital was extended by the opening of a new block for the reception of maternity cases.

The Joint Isolation Hospital was also enlarged during 1938, and the number of beds increased by 26 to 82.

**(f) Nursing Homes:**

At the end of the year there were 6 Nursing Homes registered in the Borough: of these five were for medical, surgical and maternity cases, and one for maternity cases only. All were inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, and all were found to be satisfactory.

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**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**
**Water.**

The Borough obtains its water supply from the City of Lancaster.. It is a constant supply of excellent quality. The quantity of water available is also satisfactory, an arrangement having been recently reached between the Manchester Corporation and that of the City of Lancaster, whereby the latter could augment thir own resources from the Thirlmere pipe-line in a time of emergency.

Control over the purity of the supply is maintained by chemical and bacteriological analyses on behalf of the City of Lancaster Corporation, and by similar examination of tap samples in this Borough. Such analyses in 1938 have been entirely satisfactory.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor, Mr. Savage, for the following information on the water supply in Morecambe and Heysham during the year.

Annual consumption, 1938 ... ..	445,399,000 gallons
Annual Consumption, 1937 ... ..	459,206,000 gallons
Decrease in 1938 ... ..	13,807,000 gallons

The decrease in consumption is probably due to the fact that restrictions were in force most of the year owing to the drought.

Water inspection investigations of complaints of poor supplies ... ..	185
Inspections of plumbing work in new property...	443
Inspections of plumbing in alterations ... ..	131
Services laid for new houses ... ..	461
Old services renewed ... ..	227
Length of new cast iron main laid in new building developments: 4ins., 2,484 yards; 6ins., 522 yards.	

Systematic flushing of dead ends has been carried out during the year, but not to the same extent as usual, because of the necessity for economy in the use of water.

Loan sanction was received in September for the renewal of many mains in the East End, Central and West End districts. Old encrusted mains are being replaced by new concrete lined pipes. Up to the end of the year 2,090 yards of 4in. main and 2,580 yards of 6in. main have been laid.

### **Drainage and Sewerage:**

For a number of years drainage and sewerage has, I understand, been the greatest single problem in the administration of this Borough. Several factors, among them the type of the subsoil, the degree of fall in the land and the character of the tide-flow, make the sewerage of the district a matter of unusual difficulty. The system that has hitherto been in operation has been markedly inadequate, and the inadequacy has become, with the growth of the Borough, very definitely a cause of anxiety. Recent experiences elsewhere remind us forcibly that, if England now enjoys freedom from epidemic diseases that once she knew, such freedom is not an immunity acquired by eliminating the possibility of disease. Mankind has not been rendered immune: he has only been given a defence against attack; and that defence is the barrier against infection raised by efficient sanitation. Given a break in that defence, and man will be exposed once again to the risks that earlier generations knew.

In Morecambe and Heysham there has been a break in the defence, and the population has been at risk.

The maintenance of effective sanitary services is obviously a primary duty, and their reconstitution when time and the growth of a town have outmoded them an urgent necessity. Unfortunately in Morecambe and Heysham, and in the industrial circumstances of the recent past, the problem has been one of complex difficulties and its solution very costly. It has been given the very earnest consideration of a special committee of the Council and their technical advisers, and during 1938 agreement was reached on a sewerage scheme that expert knowledge advises will give the Borough a defence against epidemic invasion of which modern sanitary science will fully approve.

In December contracts were let for the new main outfall, and for the main pumping station and auxiliary pumping station at Bare Lane. The following notes on the work that will be done under these contracts have been supplied through the kindness of the Chief Engineering Assistant of the Sewerage Department, Mr. W. J. Smith.

The main outfall consists of about 2,800 yards of 5 feet diameter steel pipes. Of these, 1,400 yards will be laid along the foreshore to below low water mark, and of the remainder there will be about a quarter of a mile in tunnel at an average depth of 30 feet.



Before entering the main pumping station the sewage passes through detritus pits, screens with automatic raking gear and disintegrators, and is then pumped into storage tanks from whence it is discharged by gravity. The pumps in the main station vary from 1,200 gallons per minute to 20,000 gallons per minute, and the total capacity of the station will be ultimately 73,000 gallons per minute.

When storms coincide with periods of tidelock on the outfall a further set of storm pumps of a capacity equivalent to those of the main station come into operation and lift the storm water and sewage from the storage tanks into a high level tank, thus giving sufficient head to overcome tidelock.

The Bare Lane Pumping Station, with a capacity of 17,500 gallons per minute, is designed to deal with the sewage and storm water from the Bare Lane area, and will lift this to the head of the intended Westgate sewer and thence to the Main Pumping Station.

In order to cut down somewhat the size of the Westgate sewers, and to decrease pumping capacity and costs, it is proposed to divert storm water falling on roads in the Westgate Area into the Main Dyke to the River Lune, and for this purpose this dyke will be widened and deepened.

Upon completion of these contracts, tenders will be invited for new main trunk sewers to serve the whole of the Morecambe part of the Borough, comprising the Central and Bare Area, West End Area, Bare Lane Area and the Westgate and Torrisholme Area. The new Westgate sewer should allow of further development taking place to the extent of upwards of 2,000 houses.

When completed, the main trunk sewers of Morecambe will be of sufficient capacity to serve the town when it is fully built up.

Now that early difficulties have been overcome, a scheme suitable for the district formulated and its cost realised, it is only necessary that the work to be begun in 1939 shall be pressed steadily forward, and the entire programme completed without hindrance or delay. Until it is completed responsibility for the health of the Borough is borne under a threat.

Flooding at times of storm or high tides has been another cause of trouble, now particularly affecting the houses at the West End of the town, though other areas do not always escape. 1939 will see work on the widening of the Promenade at the West End, and the completion of this scheme should give protection to residents in that district. Winds and tides are not, however, the only causes of trouble. In a prosperous and growing Borough, such as this is, and at a time when there is a need for more houses, it would not be wise to place unessential restrictions on building, but I would quote the following sentence from the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector for 1937:—"It is of little use fixing the height above O.D. for the lowest floor of houses, and requiring concrete to be placed over the site, if land water is able to rise above the concrete covering."



Each year for a number of years the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health has drawn attention to this matter.

### Rivers and Streams.

Dykes were culverted as land was laid out for building.

### Closet Accommodation.

There are 5 privy middens in the Borough, none of them in populous or closely built areas. There are 11,750 fresh water closets, about 50 waste water closets and no pail closets in use. 10,272 houses are on a water carriage system. There are 11,200 movable ashbins and 2 dry ashpits (excluding middens).

### Public Cleansing.

There were no alterations during the year of the arrangements for public cleansing. All branches of this work are under the control of the Health Department. Refuse collection is carried out by Pagefield Container System, Scammell moving floor vehicle and S.D. Freighters. Frequency of collection varies from daily to weekly, according to the season and type of property. Disposal is partly by salvage and incineration; and partly by controlled tipping.

Street cleansing is conducted with modern motor vehicles.

For gully cleansing a Dennis mechanical gully emptier is used.

Weight of refuse collected and disposed of:

House and shop refuse... ..	10609	...	15	...	0
Fish and slaughter-house offal..	637	...	13	...	3
Waste paper ... ..	98	...	18	...	3
Total ... ..	11346	...	7	...	2

Number of premises served:

Dwelling Houses (on Rate Book, 31/12/38) ...	10460
Shops, warehouses, etc. ... ..	1360
Number of gullies cleansed ... ..	7609
Number of visits re provision of dustbins ...	97
Number of notices served for absence of dust-	
bins: Formal ... ..	8
Informal ... ..	33

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

Number of houses inspected (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... .. 186

Number of:

Visits of inspection ... ..	322
Factory inspections ... ..	49
Workshop inspections ... ..	7
Visits of inquiry concerning Infectious Disease ...	83
Re-visits in cases of Infectious Disease ... ..	67
Houses disinfected ... ..	155
Schools disinfected ... ..	2

Rooms fumigated ... ..	303
Offensive Trades inspections ... ..	34
Visits to Food Premises ... ..	102
Visits to Ice-cream Vendors ... ..	7
Slaughter-house inspections ... ..	467
Farm inspections ... ..	32
Dairy inspections ... ..	90
Visits to Retail Purveyors of Milk ... ..	185
Visits to Camps ... ..	43
Visits to Caravans ... ..	36
Visits for testing and inspecting drains, dykes, etc. ... ..	144
Smoke observations ... ..	17
Visits to stables and piggeries ... ..	2

#### **Defects and Nuisances dealt with:**

Number of complaints received ... ..	290
Number of nuisances discovered ... ..	319
Number of nuisances abated ... ..	279
Number of informal notices served ... ..	103
Number of formal notices served ... ..	8
Legal proceedings taken ... ..	None

#### **Summary of Nuisances dealt with:**

Choked drains ... ..	43
Choked gullies ... ..	13
Choked water closets ... ..	5
Choked combined drains ... ..	14
Choked sink waste pipe ... ..	1
Choked sewers ... ..	2
Defective drains ... ..	6
Defective water closets and urinals ... ..	3
Defective house roofs ... ..	9
Defective waste water closets ... ..	2
Defective flues and fireplaces ... ..	2
Defective windows ... ..	4
Defective eave and down spouts ... ..	8
Defective yard paving ... ..	1
Defective rain water pipe ... ..	1
Defective sink waste pipes ... ..	6
Defective wall plaster ... ..	1
Defective vent pipes ... ..	1
Defective soil pipes ... ..	2
Defective & dangerous condition of W.C. apartments	2
Absence of sink ... ..	1
Absence of window sash cords ... ..	2
Absence of ventilation to W.C. apartments ... ..	4
Absence of lighting to W.C. apartments ... ..	4
Absence of chain to W.C. cisterns ... ..	2
Broken yard gates ... ..	4
Damp walls ... ..	14
Gully in dairy ... ..	1
Insufficient water supply ... ..	3
Improper keeping of animals ... ..	1

Filthy condition of houses ... ..	2
Offensive smells in houses ... ..	26
Offensive condition of camping grounds ... ..	1
Offensive accumulation of refuse & decaying matter	6
Offensive state of dykes and watercourses ... ..	4
Overflowing state of cesspools ... ..	2
Offensive smell from sewer ... ..	1
Offensive condition of pig styres ... ..	2
Offensive condition of poultry farms ... ..	3
Shops used for dwelling purposes ... ..	1
Untrapped waste pipes ... ..	2
Verminous premises ... ..	30
Water in cellars ... ..	21
Water on site of house ... ..	3
Wasps nests ... ..	3
Defects in Factories ... ..	10

### **Shops and Offices:**

Under the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences, a survey of all the shops in the Borough was begun. The survey was not completed at the end of the year and is continuing.

Under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, routine inspection was carried out and informal notices sent as required.

The work done under the Shops Acts, 1912-36 is given in the following table:—

Number of visits to shops ... ..	713
Number of shops inspected ... ..	76
Number of re-visits to shops ... ..	90
Number of visits to deliver pamphlet re closing hours ... ..	846
Number of miscellaneous visits ... ..	9
Number of informal notices served re absence of and improper keeping of records and prescribed forms ... ..	72
Number of informal notices served re absence of sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences ... ..	40
Number of informal notices served re absence of sufficient and suitable washing facilities ... ..	21
Number of verbal warnings given re closing hours and infringements ... ..	28
Number of informal notices served re insufficient shop heating	4
Number of informal notices served re contravention of closing hours ... ..	1
Number of informal notices served re defects in sanitary conveniences ... ..	6
Number of informal notices served re statutory half-day for assistants ... ..	1
Number of certificates issued exempting shops from the provision of sanitary conveniences ... ..	6
Number of certificates issued exempting shops from the provision of washing facilities ... ..	1
Total number of visits made ... ..	1658



### Camping Sites:

It is the policy of the Council to effect a reasonable compromise between care for the amenities of Morecambe and Heysham as an attractive health resort and residential area, and the wishes of those who seek a holiday under canvas or by caravan.

The residents of any area are generally inclined to oppose the establishment of a camp in their midst on the grounds that it will be noisy, that it will bring them undesirable neighbours, that it will be insanitary or that it will be unsightly. Any, indeed all, of these defects may be found in the carelessly designed or ill-managed camp; but in this Borough great care is taken to see that for such complaints there shall be no justification.

Noise, seemliness and the character of the visitors should be controllable by the manager, or owner, of the camp; and the good conduct of the camps that have existed for some years in the Borough is proof that such control is exercised.

As for the fear that a camp may be insanitary, the conditions on which a licence is granted render that fear unnecessary.

There remains the question of the effect that a camp has on the appearance of a district, and that is important. This consideration has for some time past been allowed to have considerable influence in decisions on granting new licences, and the attractive appearance of the district is being safeguarded.

Unfortunately it is a fact that the sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to camping allow certain exemptions which are wide enough to permit escape from much of a Local Authority's wise control.

Number of sites used for camping during 1938 ... ..	14
Number of sites for which licences were granted under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	8
Estimated maximum number of campers in the area at one time during the Summer season, 1938	1,000—1,200

### Smoke Abatement:

There are 7 factory and works chimneys in the district. 17 observations were taken of these during the year. No legal proceedings were necessary.

The time allowed for the emission of black smoke is 2 minutes in half-an-hour.

### Swimming Baths and Pools:

There is one public swimming pool. The pool has filtration and chlorination plant, and has its own laundry. It is under the direction of a fully qualified Baths Superintendent, and under his supervision the chlorination of the water is controlled by frequent colorimetric estimation. It is probable that the treatment of the water, and its control in this way, are sufficient to ensure its cleanliness and safety, but as an additional precaution samples were submitted for bacteriological analysis at intervals during the year.

These samples were taken from various parts of the pool at both slack and busy periods, and always the analyst's report has been entirely satisfactory.

There is also one privately-owned pool open to the public. This, too, is an up-to-date installation, and samples of the water from it taken in the same way as those from the municipal pool were reported on equally satisfactorily.

### **Eradication of Bed-bugs:**

The number of houses found to be infested was 30. None of these were Council houses. All of these houses were disinfected. The methods used for disinfestation were fumigation with sulphur, spraying with proprietary insecticides and the use of the blow-lamp. These procedures were carried out by the local authority. Occasionally cyanide disinfestation is carried out by private contract with a commercial firm.

Bedding and clothing are treated in a steam disinfector.

There are so very few Council houses in the area that the movement of persons into such houses who might bring bed-bugs with them does not present a problem.

After disinfestation of a house verbal advice is given to the tenants.

### **Schools:**

No structural alterations have been made, and the sanitary conditions and water-supply are satisfactory.

In dealing with infectious diseases the Memorandum on closure of and Exclusion from School, 1927, is taken as a guide. With very few exceptions all children suffering from a notifiable disease are taken to the Isolation Hospital. Some cases of non-notifiable infectious disease, e.g. measles, are also sent to the Isolation Hospital when special circumstances recommend that action.

Head teachers of schools report to the Health Department the names and addresses of all absentees stated to be suffering from infectious disease: they are asked also to report the absence of several children from one house at the same time, whatever cause for their absence may be given. Such children are visited, and leaflets concerning the disease from which they suffer are given to the parents.

During the year there were 31 cases of scarlatina, 12 cases of diphtheria and 2 cases of pneumonia notified amongst school-children.

It was not found to be necessary to close any school on account of infectious disease.

### **Offensive Trades.**

The chief of the trades so designated is, in this area, that of fish frying. As has been stated in previous annual reports, the habits of the consumer are a greater cause of offence than the

preparation of the food. Modern ranges do much to mitigate the unpleasantness of the process of preparation: only the thoughtlessness of the consumer in his disposal of the container remains unchanged.

Number of trades established:

Fish friers ... ..	29
Tripe dressers ... ..	2
Gut scrapers ... ..	1
Fat melters ... ..	1
<hr/>	
Total ... ..	33
Number of visits to premises ... ..	34
Number of applications for consent to establish ... ..	3
Number of applications for consent not granted ... ..	2
Number of applications for renewal of consent	10
Number of applications for renewal refused ...	0

## DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND OTHER VERMIN.

Although the onus of clearing premises of rats is on the occupier of the premises, and is not the duty of the Local Authority, various kinds of rat killer are issued free of charge, and the assistance of a rat catcher is available for difficult cases.

Stocks of various insecticides are kept and sold at cost price, and advice on the identification and treatment of insects is given.

## HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total ... ..	397
(1) By the local authority ... ..	—
(2) By other local authorities ... ..	—
(3) By other bodies or persons ... ..	397
(b) With State assistance under the Housings Acts ... ..	—

1—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	186
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	322
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	—



(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	20
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	80
2—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their offices ... ..	50
3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... ..	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners ... ..	4
(b) By local authority in default of owners ... ..	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... ..	—
* (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... ..	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	—
4—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	24
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	24
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	124
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	12
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	74
* Two dwelling-houses were demolished after Closing Orders under the 1925 Act.	

There is a need in the Borough for new houses at a low rental, both to relieve overcrowding and to replace dwellings not reasonably fit for habitation. The rents of such houses as are available are beyond the means of those people most in need of rehousing, and sterilisation of land for building purposes by lack of sewerage facilities has hindered the building of the houses that would meet their wants.

The Council has been aware of the position and anxious to relieve it, and a sub-committee of the Health and Housing Committee was formed to make recommendations. With an estimate in mind of a requirement of 250 houses, and with the knowledge that 1939 would see work begun on a new sewerage scheme, certain lands not yet built on were brought under review. As a result of this action it is now a reasonable expectation that such unsatisfactory housing conditions as exist in the Borough will be abolished by the provision by the Council of low rented houses.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (1) Milk Supply.

The decrease in the number of dairy farms continues as more land passes to the builder.

Whereas the milk brought in from outside districts is mostly sold as bottled milk, much of that produced locally is sold loose.

Twenty-six samples of milk were examined. In 12 samples the Methylene Blue test was substituted for the total bacterial count. The test for B. Coli was done with all samples, except one.

The test for B. Coli in 25 samples gave the following results:—

B. Coli not present in 1 cc. ... ..	4 samples
B. Coli present in 1 cc. and not in 0.1 cc. ... ..	1 sample
B. Coli present in 0.1 cc. and not in 0.01 cc. ... ..	5 samples
B. Coli present in 0.01 cc. ... ..	15 samples

Amongst the milks sampled there were 5 designated milks; one of these was unsatisfactory.

During the year 185 visits were made to retail purveyors of milk.

Number of premises registered as dairies ... ..	60
Number of persons registered as wholesale traders and/or producers ... ..	39

Number of persons registered as retail purveyors ... 140  
Licences issued:—:

To sell Tuberculin Tested milk ... ..	7
To sell Accredited milk ... ..	5
To sell Pasteurised milk ... ..	12
To bottle Accredited milk ... ..	1

## **(2) Meat and Other Foods.**

There are 8 slaughter houses in the district, all on annual licences, excluding one at the approved landing place for Irish cattle at Heysham Harbour. Some of these are badly situated in consequence of building developments, and the position will certainly not improve.

The suggestion that the Borough should have a public abattoir was made some years ago, and the probability of the Government instituting regional slaughtering adds force to the suggestion. A public abattoir would certainly have many public health advantages.

The slaughter house at Heysham Harbour is only used for animals in transit from Ireland; animals are slaughtered there by reason of accident or unfitness to travel.

The animals slaughtered in the town are of high grade, and the amount of meat that has to be condemned is small.

The assistance of the Veterinary Inspector at the Harbour is appreciated.

## **(3) Imported Food Regulations.**

Bacon, potatoes and dairy produce from Northern Ireland make up the bulk of the imported food, and are of a satisfactory quality.

Last Autumn it was learned that fruit pulp of doubtful condition might be shipped through Heysham, and especial care was exercised in the matter.

## **(4) Potted Meat Premises.**

Registration of these is required under a local Act.

Most of the premises registered are used for shrimp picking. This work, of a very irregular character, calls for much labour over short periods, and it is, therefore difficult to regulate. On the other hand, the Morecambe shrimp has earned a reputation that is at least national, and the conditions of its preparation are of more than local importance.

Registration of premises is of small value if it does not permit of efficient inspection, and such inspection is not possible under present conditions. If the work could be done in central premises designed for the purpose, then assurance could be given that it was done always under conditions suitable for the preparation of a food. Difficult though it may be, such an assurance ought to be made possible.

## **(5) Meat Inspection.**

The numbers of animals inspected, and the action taken, are seen in the table following.



CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Number inspected ... ..	372	13	2694	177
Whole Carcase condemned ...	5	—	5	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10	—	5	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis ... ..	4.03	—	0.38	5.09
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	—	—	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	6	—	—	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	1.85	—	—	10.73

All diseases  
except  
Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis  
only

Details of the defects found on inspection of meat are given below, and allocation is made as between the slaughter houses of the town and that at Heysham Harbour.

Tuberculous carcasses and parts:

	Town	Heysham Harbour	Ttl.
Beast carcasses (with offal) ... ..	1	0	1
Pig carcasses (with offal)... ..	0	5	5
Beast livers ... ..	1	0	1
Beast lungs (pairs) ... ..	3	0	3
Beast head ... ..	2	0	2
Pig pluck (heart, liver and lungs) ... ..	2	0	2
Pig head ... ..	1	9	10
Pig mesentery ... ..	0	1	1
Pig stomach ... ..	0	1	1

Diseased, unsound or unwholesome meat

(other than Tuberculous carcasses and parts):

Beast carcase with offal (Bruising) ... ..	0	4	4
Beast carcase with offal (Septic metritus) ... ..	0	1	1
Pig carcase with offal (Unsound) ... ..	1	4	5
Pig carcase with offal (Fevered)... ..	0	1	1
Pig carcase with offal (Syncope) ... ..	0	1	1
Sheep carcase with offal (Unsound) ... ..	1	1	2
Sheep carcase with offal (Emaciation)... ..	0	3	3
Beast liver (Cirrhosis) ... ..	1	0	1
Beast liver (Abscesses) ... ..	1	0	1
Beast liver (Flukes) ... ..	3	3	6
Beast hindquarter (Fractured pelvis) ... ..	0	2	2
Pig lungs pairs (Congestion)... ..	1	0	1
Pig head (Growth near ear) ... ..	0	1	1
Sheep liver (Abscesses) ... ..	5	0	5

Other foodstuffs:

Tripe (Unsound)... ..	60 lbs.
Fruit pulp (Fermentation) ... ..	1 barrel

## (6) Adulteration, etc.

Morecambe and Heysham is not a Food and Drugs Authority, but the following information has been supplied by the courtesy of the Lancashire Constabulary.

## FOOD AND DRUGS. SAMPLES TAKEN WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM.

Milk ... ..	66
Butter ... ..	2
Margarine ... ..	2
Lard ... ..	1
Marmalade ... ..	1
Meat Pie ... ..	1
Sausages ... ..	1

Six milk samples were found to be adulterated, but no proceedings were taken.

One sample of sausages was found to be adulterated, and the vendor in this case was cautioned.

### (7) **Shell Fish.**

There are extensive mussel beds on the foreshore, and to seaward, chiefly at the westerly end of the district.

These beds are liable to pollution, and are closed under the Heysham and Morecambe Bay (Shellfish) Regulations, 1926. At one time it was thought that purification tanks might be established, but the project fell through by reason of disagreement with those engaged in the mussel trade over the choice of a site.

Any shell fish taken from the Bay are sent to the North-East coast ports to be used as bait.

Musseles sold in the edistrict are obtained from Ireland.

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## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year certain modifications were made in the information sought on each notification of an infectious disease, and a full record relating to each case is made of such factors (history, contact, food supply, environment, etc.) as might assist in control.

Close co-operation is maintained between the Education and Health Departments in the matter of infectious disease: to this reference was made in the section on Schools.

It is widely realised in the Borough that infectious disease can be economically disastrous in a population whose livelihood depends on the presence of visitors, and consent is readily given to removal of a case of notifiable disease to hospital. Hospital accommodation, recently increased, is satisfactory, and few cases of notifiable infectious disease are treated at home.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

49 cases were notified. This is the lowest figure since 1933, and compares with 93 cases in 1937. There were possibly 2 "return" cases amongst this group.

43 cases were taken to hospital. There were no deaths.



**Diphtheria.**

37 cases were notified, all faucial. Last year the number was 18. All were treated in hospital, and there was one death. 7 of these cases were under 5 years of age, and 13 over 20 years. The disease was not of a grave type.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**

There were 2 cases notified, of which one was treated in hospital. There were no deaths.

**Pneumonia.**

14 cases of pneumonia were notified, and amongst these there were 3 deaths. Last year there were 32 cases. The incidence of pneumonia varies with that of influenza, and 1938 was not a bad year for influenza.

**Erysipelas.**

Of 15 cases notified 4 were removed to hospital; there were no deaths.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

There were 2 cases.

Of the non-notifiable infectious diseases measles was the most prevalent, but at no time during the year was school-closure necessary.

**Immunisation.**

This is not carried out by the Local Authority, but Diphtheria prophylactic is issued free to all medical practitioners on request, and the value of immunisation is explained to parents.

In addition to the diphtheria prophylactic of their choice, medical practitioners are offered free supplies of other vaccines or sera required by them.

**Disinfection.**

Rooms are treated with formaldehyde, and a Washington Lyons steam disinfecter is used for bedding and clothing.

Number of articles disinfected by steam:—

Beds, mattresses ... ..	98
Pillows, bolsters, etc ... ..	294
Articles of clothing ... ..	416
Sheets and blankets ... ..	412
Miscellaneous ... ..	270

**Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations.**

Specimens examined in 1938:

215 Nose and throat swabs.
1 Blood serum.
54 Miscellaneous.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1938.

	AGE PERIOD IN YEARS.												Cases removed to hospital	Deaths in hospital	Total Deaths
	Total														
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever ... ..	..	1	1	4	3	19	13	2	6	..	..	..	43	..	..
Diphtheria ... ..	..	..	1	..	6	9	4	4	9	3	1	..	37	1	..
Erysipelas ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	6	4	4	..	..
Acute Pneumonia ... .. (Primary & influenzal)	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	3	1	4	3	..	..	15*
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Puerperal Pyrexia... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Fever...	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
Totals ... ..															

\* Deaths from all forms of pneumonia.  
Deaths from Notifiable (acute primary and influenzal) pneumonia = 3.

NOTIFIED DISEASES.  
Prevalence and Deaths for five years.

	1938		1937		1936		1935		1934	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ... ..	49	...	93	...	109	...	137	...	50	...
Diphtheria ... ..	37	1	18	1	19	...	65	1	40	...
Erysipelas ... ..	15	...	9	...	7	...	19	3	13	1
Pneumonia ... ..	14	3	32	11	25	18	52	21	32	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	...	5	...	5	...	2	...	5	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	1	2	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	...	4	2	2	...	1	...	1	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever... ..	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	24	10	22	12	26	13	26	14	28	15
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	18	2	15	1	14	3	9	3	18	2
Totals	163	18	202	29	207	34	313	43	189	28



## TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years.								
0—1... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
1—5... ..	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
5—10... ..	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...
10—15... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
15—20... ..	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
20—25... ..	3	1	1	2	1	...	...	...
25—35... ..	2	3	...	1	2	...	...	...
35—45... ..	5	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
45—55... ..	5	...	1	2	2	...	1	...
55—65... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
	15	9	3	15	7	3	1	1
Totals ... ..	24		18		10		2	

There were no deaths from tuberculosis without previous notification of the case.

## AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Although Circular 1728 of the Ministry of Health, which prescribes the form of the Medical Officer of Health's report, asks for no information concerning the preparation of air raid precautions schemes, it is felt that work of such importance, of such difficulty and of such deep interest to citizens should have some place in the year's record.

When responsibility for schemes of air raid precautions, including the treatment of the injured in the event of an air raid, was made a statutory duty of local authorities, Medical Officers of Health, in common with other public officials, were given a task bearing no relation to their normal duties, and for the execution of which they had no experience to help them.

Air raids on civilian populations there had been, in Europe, in Africa and in Asia, within the very recent past, and something could be learned from the experiences of others; but so many factors of importance were peculiar to the conditions of these wars, so much was there that could not be accepted as a reliable example of what might occur in this country, that all that was learned left our problem still one of difficulty and surmise.

In the absence of practical knowledge, schemes were based on theory. First theories were modified, then displaced by presumably better theories; plans were worked out, were approved, then were scrapped for better plans; and for many hours that would, in a sane world, be given to normal work there seems often to be little to show—little except the tale of other work undone.

The lack of knowledge, the impossibility of even reasonable calculation, of the effects of an air raid, of the number of casualties, the nature of the injuries, the treatment that would be available, makes the formulation of plans a difficult and uncertain labour.

It is work in which there cannot be much final satisfaction; for unless war comes, and until an air raid becomes an experience instead of a threat, the value of precautions schemes cannot be known.

A brief summary of such work as has been done, and has ripened into action of some kind, is given below.

### **Proposed First Aid Post.**

The School Clinic in Euston Road.

### **Mobile Unit.**

There will be one mobile unit stationed near the Queen Victoria Hospital.

### **First Aid Party Depots.**

There will be four of these:

Woodhill Lane Corporation Depot.

The Swimming Stadium.

Bare Motor Co., Ltd., Bare Lane.

Old Council Offices, Heysham.

### **Ambulance Depots.**

The four first aid party depots will also serve as ambulance depots, and, in addition, there will be an ambulance stationed at the Euston Road School Clinic.

### **Personnel.**

Controlling Officer: Medical Officer of Health.

Deputy Controlling Officer: Dr. R. F. Lavelle.

Medical Officer in Charge of First Aid Post: Dr. W. W. McKinney.

Medical Officer in Charge of Mobile Unit: Dr. N. Philips.

First Aid Commandant: Mr. E. H. Norman (in charge of first aid party depots and parties).

Deputy First Aid Commandant: Mr. A. Edmondson.

Officer in Charge of Laundry Service: Mr. L. Flook.

A most excellent response was made to the call for volunteers to man the first aid services, and at the end of the year the first groups of these were being trained with the very willing assistance of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

## PORT SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

TABLE A.

1, Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the year 1938.

	No.	Ton- nage	No. Inspected by Medical Officer of Health	No. Inspected by Sanitary Inspector	No. Reported to be Defective	No. of Vessels on which Defects were Remedied	No. of Vessels reported as having or having had during v'y'ge infectious disease on board
Foreign							
Steamers ... ..	6	4163	...	6	...	...	...
Motor ... ..	7	1574	...	1	...	...	...
Sailing ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fishing ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Foreign ...	13	5737	...	7	...	...	...
Coastwise							
Steamers ... ..	914	930709	...	...	...	...	...
Motor ... ..	102	32232	...	...	...	...	...
Fishing ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sailing ... .. }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Coastwise...	1016	962941	...	...	...	...	...
Total Foreign and Coastwise ... ..	1029	968678	...	7	...	...	...

TABLE B.

## II.—Character of Trade of Port.

(a) Passenger Traffic during the year.

No. of Passengers.	Belfast.		Isle of Man	Trans- migrants.
	1st Class	3rd Class	1st and 3rd Class	
Inwards ... ..	54,511	131,436	29,534	—
Outwards ... ..	56,438	127,201	31,694	—

There is no passenger traffic with foreign ports.

(b) Cargo Traffic.

**Principal Imports:** Live cattle, sheep, pigs and horses from Northern Ireland, also bacon, eggs, potatoes, linen goods and machinery. In 1938, 65,359 cattle, 73,389 sheep, 66,467 pigs, 27 goats and 240 horses were landed. There is little foreign trade and this consists chiefly of cork waste.

**Principal Exports:** Agricultural machinery and general merchandise. The Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive are Oporto and Lisbon.



### III.—Source of Water Supply:

Water is obtained from the town supply for the port and for shipping.

No water vessels are employed; vessels taking in water from stand-pipes alongside.

### IV.—Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933:

- (1) Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.  
This is usually received by the Customs Officer and handed later to the Sanitary Authority.
- (2) Boarding Vessels on arrival.  
By Customs Officer and by Officer of Sanitary Authority.
- (3) Notification to the Authority of Vessels requiring special attention. Customs Officer notifies M.O.H. by telephone.
- (4) Mooring Stations designated under Act 10.
  - (a) Inner Mooring. For cases of Smallpox and Typhus.  
Easterly end of North side.
  - (b) Outer Mooring. For cases of Cholera, Yellow Fever and Plague. At Lune Deeps.
- (5) Particulars of any standing exemptions from provisions of Article 14.  
All ordinary notifiable infectious diseases other than those specified under (4).
- (6) Experience of working of Article 16.  
No experience.
- (7) Arrangements for:—
  - (a) Premises and waiting rooms for medical examination.  
No special premises have been provided. There is no foreign passenger traffic. Members of the crew would be examined on board.
  - (b) Premises for temporary accommodation of persons.  
No special premises.
  - (c) Cleansing and Disinfection of Ships.  
A Steam disinfector is provided for bedding and clothing. Appliances and materials are available for the disinfecting of ships and this would be carried out by the Health Department Staff.
  - (d) Hospital Accommodation.  
A hospital provided by a Joint Board on which this Sanitary Authority is represented, is now available for all cases except smallpox.

For smallpox cases the Sanitary Authority has an agreement with the Lancaster Corporation for the reception of seaborne cases in their hospital. This agreement will continue until the Joint Board make suitable provision.

(e) Ambulance transport.

A special motor ambulance is available with attendants.

(f) Supervision of contacts.

Contacts requiring to be kept under surveillance would be kept on board or accommodated at hospital.

(8 & 9) Arrangements for bacteriological or pathological examinations of rats and other materials.

Submitted to bacteriologists ordinarily employed by the Public Health Authority. Usually the Public Health Laboratories, Manchester University.

(10) Venereal Diseases.

No special arrangements for sailors. Facilities arranged by the County Council are available.

(11) Arrangements for interment of dead.

In cemeteries provided by the Sanitary Authorities.

**TABLE C.**

**Cases of Infectious Disease Landed from Vessels.**

Disease.	No. of cases during the year.		No. of vessels concerned.	Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years.
	Pas'gers.	Crew.		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

**TABLE D.**

**Cases of Infectious Disease occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival of vessel.**

Disease.	No. of cases during the year.		No. of vessels concerned.	Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years.
	Pas'gers.	Crew.		
—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

**V.—Measures against Rodents.**

No special measures have been necessary, the port being remarkably free from rats. Practically all traffic is from Northern Ireland, and the cargo is only on board a few hours and is transported direct by rail.

**VI.—Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.**

**Classification of Nuisances.**

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original Construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin, other conditions prejudicial to health.
British.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Nations.	7	Nil	Nil	Nil

**VII.—Food Inspection.**

Periodical visits are made for the purpose of the Imported Food Regulations.

Visits are also made for the purpose of examining carcasses of animals slaughtered on board or after detention on landing.

No. of visits for the purposes of Imported Food Regulations 46

No. of visits for the purpose of Meat Regulations ... .. 92

Beasts ... .. 31

Pigs ... .. 119

Sheep ... .. 364

No. of barrels of fruit pulp examined ... .. 33

**MILK SAMPLES ANALYSED.**

No. of Sample	Type of Milk	Methylene Blue Test	B. Coli present in 1 cc. 0.1cc. 0.01cc			Total bacteria in 1 cc.
1	Accredited ...	Satisfactory ...	—	—	—	
2	Ordinary loose		+	+	+	280,000
3	„ „		+	+	+	132,000
4	„ „		+	+	—	144,000
5	„ „		+	+	+	56,000
6	„ „		+	+	+	30,000
7	„ „		+	+	—	22,000
8	Accredited ...	Unsatisfactory	+	+	+	
9	Ordinary loose		+	+	—	16,000
10	„ „		+	+	+	45,400
11	„ „		+	+	+	157,400
12	„ „		+	+	+	51,800
13	„ „		+	+	+	667,200
14	„ „		+	+	+	22,200
15	„ „		+	+	+	17,800
16	Accredited ...	Satisfactory ...	+	—	—	
17	„ „	Satisfactory ...	+	+	—	
18	Ordinary loose	Unsatisfactory	+	+	+	
19	„ „	Satisfactory ...	—	—	—	
20	Pasteurised ...					1,200
21	Ordinary loose	Unsatisfactory	+	+	+	
22	„ „	Unsatisfactory	+	+	—	
23	„ „	Unsatisfactory	+	+	+	
24	„ „	Satisfactory ...	—	—	—	
25	„ „	Unsatisfactory	+	+	+	
26	„ „	Satisfactory ...	—	—	—	

The standard by which a milk is judged in the Methylene Blue Test is that from May 1st until October 31st, the methylene blue should not be decolourised in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours, and from November 1st until April 30th in  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours.



## HOUSING ACT, 1935—ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING.

### Section 61.—Temporary overcrowding licences:

Number of applications received ... ..	2
Number of licences granted ... ..	2
Copies of licences served on landlord ... ..	2

### Section 62.—Entries in rent books.

Number of notices served re proposed visit of Inspector to measure premises in order to ascertain permitted number of persons ... ..	418
Number of visits of Inspector to measure premises ... ..	328
Number of premises measured ... ..	270
Number of certificates issued ... ..	210
Number of dwellings affected by certificates ... ..	277
Number of visits to examine rent books ... ..	937
Number of rent books examined ... ..	507
Number of rent books not complying with provisions ... ..	237
Number of informal notices served re absence of informa- tion ... ..	253

### Section 66. Enforcement.

Number of formal notices served requiring statement of occupants ... ..	11
Legal proceedings ... ..	Nil
Miscellaneous visits of Inspector ... ..	32
Number of visits to overcrowded dwellings ... ..	34
Total number of visits ... ..	1331

TABLE 1.

Details of overcrowding existing at end of 1938:

No.		Permitted Number.		Persons.		Equivalent Adults.
5	...	$4\frac{1}{2}$	...	6	...	$5\frac{1}{2}$
6	...	$4\frac{1}{2}$	...	5	...	5
9	...	6	...	10	...	7
11	...	$7\frac{1}{2}$	...	10	...	10
12	...	$4\frac{1}{2}$	...	5	...	5
14	...	7	...	9	...	$7\frac{1}{2}$
16	...	—	...	1	...	1
19	...	5	...	7	...	$6\frac{1}{2}$
20	...	6	...	8	...	$6\frac{1}{2}$
22	...	7	...	8	...	8
23	...	$0\frac{1}{2}$	...	2	...	2
24	...	$0\frac{1}{2}$	...	2	...	2
25	...	1	...	2	...	2
26	...	$1\frac{1}{2}$	...	2	...	2
29	...	1	...	2	...	$1\frac{1}{2}$
30	...	$3\frac{1}{2}$	...	5	...	$4\frac{1}{2}$
31	...	2	...	3	...	3
32	...	3	...	5	...	$4\frac{1}{2}$
34	...	3	...	4	...	4
39	...	2	...	2	...	2
43	...	3	...	5	...	$3\frac{1}{2}$
44	...	$7\frac{1}{2}$	...	10	...	$9\frac{1}{2}$
46	...	7	...	8	...	$7\frac{1}{2}$
53	...	$2\frac{1}{2}$	...	3	...	3
24	...	—	...	124	...	113

N.B.—No. 39 overcrowded by reason of sex.





**RAINFALL.**

1938	Total Amount in inches	Wet days of fall 0.01 ins. or more	Greatest Fall in Inches	Date
January ... ..	5.07	23	0.52	14th
February ... ..	1.43	13	0.34	9th
March... ..	1.28	12	0.52	20th
April ... ..	0.34	2	0.29	2nd
May ... ..	3.58	15	0.75	29th
June ... ..	4.14	14	0.97	26th
July ... ..	4.26	18	1.02	25th
August ... ..	2.47	19	0.50	15th
September ... ..	1.32	16	0.21	16th
October ... ..	8.67	22	1.35	3rd
November ... ..	5.88	21	1.37	12th
December ... ..	4.40	18	0.95	4th
Year ... ..	42.84	193	1.37	12th Nov.

**SUNSHINE AT MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM.**

Measured by Campbell-Stokes Instrument.

1938	Actual Sunshine hrs. mins.		Greatest Daily Amount of Sunshine hrs. mins.		Date	Days on which Sun shone	Sunless Days
January ..	39	12	5	0	20th	20	11
February .	78	54	8	54	19th	18	10
March ...	93	12	10	30	14th	25	6
April ...	210	36	12	12	10th	29	1
May ... ..	223	24	14	36	1st, 4th and 8th	25	6
June ... ..	217	6	15	0	17th	23	2
July ... ..	164	24	14	48	2nd	29	2
August ...	217	54	14	18	4th	31	0
Sept.... ..	124	18	12	36	2nd	26	4
Oct. ... ..	93	48	7	24	6th	27	4
Nov.... ..	53	48	7	0	9th	22	8
Dec. ... ..	51	36	5	54	21st	22	9
Year ... ..	1568	12	15	0	17th June	302	63

The average daily amount of sunshine during the year;  
4 hours 18 minuts.

**WIND.**

Measured by Beaufort Scale.

1938	Average each month at 9 a.m.	Highest Velocity m.p.h.	Date
January ... ..	4.4	50	29th
February ... ..	4.1	50	1st
March ... ..	2.7	27	19th
April ... ..	2.1	21	2nd and 3rd
May ... ..	2.0	15	2nd, 4th, 24th, 30th
June ... ..	3.0	27	2nd, 20th, 29th
July ... ..	2.2	27	28th
August ... ..	1.7	35	18th
September ... ..	1.8	15	13th and 22nd
October ... ..	3.2	42	4th
November ... ..	3.3	27	1st, 2nd, 25th
December ... ..	2.3	21	1st, 13th, 18th
Year ... ..	2.7	50	29th Jan. and 1st Feb.

**ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.**

Measured by Barometer at 9-0 a.m. Greenwich time.

1938	Mean	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January ..	1006.3	1034.1	3rd	967.0	15th
February .	1022.8	1036.2	11th	984.6	1st
March ...	1020.7	1037.1	4th	1002.7	21st
April ...	1026.1	1041.5	11th	1014.1	2nd
May ... ..	1012.8	1025.8	22nd	992.1	29th
June ... ..	1012.5	1027.0	16th	993.3	27th
July ... ..	1011.4	1020.5	19th	998.1	8th
August ...	1013.4	1024.0	3rd	993.2	19th
Sept....	1013.8	1026.4	10th	999.0	20th
Oct. ... ..	1006.6	1023.4	20th	977.0	3rd
Nov. ... ..	1004.0	1028.0	15th	957.6	23rd
Dec. ... ..	1007.2	1029.5	25th	981.3	1st
Year ...	1013.1	1041.5	11th Apl.	957.6	23rd Nov.

(Measurements in Millibars.)

**SHADE TEMPERATURE.**

Measured by Maximum and Minimum Thermometers in a  
Stevenson Screen.

1938	Max. Mean	Min. Mean	Lowest	Date	Highest	Date
January ..	45.7	37.3	28	11th	52	22nd
February .	45.6	36.6	27	21st	56	26th
March ...	50.5	42.4	34	8th & 23rd	60	13th
April ...	53.6	39.8	27	18th	59	12th
May ... ..	58.0	45.7	32	8th	65	21st
June ... ..	61.2	51.5	44	2nd	69	18th
July ... ..	63.2	53.6	45	2nd	70	27th
August ...	67.8	55.6	42	21st	79	10th, 11th
Sept.... ..	62.5	51.6	34	15th	70	8th
Oct. ... ..	55.7	46.4	35	26th	61	1st
Nov. .... ..	52.8	44.8	33	22nd	62	12th, 13th
Dec. ... ..	44.7	36.9	25	20th, 21st	55	11th
Year ...	55.1	45.2	25	20th, 21st Dec.	79	10th, 11th Aug.

**THE MOISTURE IN THE AIR.**

Measured by means of the Wet and Dry Bulb Thermometers  
forming the Hygrometer.

1938	Wet Bulb Mean	Dry Bulb Mean	Relative Humidity
January ... ..	40.0	41.9	85
February ... ..	39.1	41.1	84
March ... ..	45.1	46.8	87
April ... ..	43.8	47.4	75
May ... ..	48.2	53.4	68
June ... ..	53.3	57.1	77
July ... ..	55.3	58.7	80
August ... ..	58.1	62.4	75
September ... ..	54.4	57.3	82
October ... ..	49.0	51.5	82
November ... ..	46.6	48.8	84
December ... ..	39.1	40.9	86
Year ... ..	47.7	50.6	80











